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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK33//

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TO ADAMS/SEMER FOR THE SECRETARY

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

OCTOBER 11, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ITEMS

BOMBINGS IN DAMASCUS: THE LOCAL OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL CASH REGISTER COMPANY IN DAMASCUS WAS BOMBED YESTERDAY AFTER WORKING HOURS. THE U.S. EMBASSY BELIEVES THE BOMBING -- THE THIRD IN DAMASCUS IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS -- WAS MEANT AS YET ANOTHER WARNING OF OPPOSITION TO THE U.S. PRESENCE IN DAMASCUS AND WAS TIMED SPECIFICALLY TO COINCIDE WITH YOUR VISIT. THE EMBASSY HAS RAISED THE MATTER WITH SYRIAN AUTHORITIES, WHO HAVE PREDICTABLY ASSURED AMBASSADOR MURPHY THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR CONCERN ABOUT THE WELFARE OF YOU AND YOUR PARTY OR ANY OTHER U.S. CITIZEN NOW IN DAMASCUS.

THE LATEST BOMBING COMES LESS THAN A MONTH AFTER AN OFFICE BUILDING UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE USIA WAS WRECKED BY A BOMB AND JUST TWO MONTHS AFTER A BOMB WAS SET OFF INSIDE THE U.S. EXHIBIT AT THE DAMASCUS FAIR. THE AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY IN SIDON, LEBANON WAS ALSO BOMBED ON AUGUST 29. ALL THE EXPLOSIONS APPEARED TO BE TIMED TO MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF PERSONAL INJURY.

A GROUP CALLING ITSELF THE ARAB COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THE EARLIER BOMBINGS. NOTHING IS KNOWN ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION OR ITS MEMBERSHIP. CIA SUSPECTS IT IS A SELF-STYLED NATIONALIST GROUP TRYING TO COVER ITS TRACKS BY CLAIMING TO BE COMMUNIST.

ISRAELIS PLEASED WITH PACE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH EC: THE EC IS NOT LETTING ITS RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL GO STALE AS IT PURSUES ITS "DIALOG" WITH ARAB COUNTRIES. ANOTHER ROUND OF THE TALKS LEADING TO A NEW TRADE AGREEMENT WITH TEL AVIV WAS COMPLETED ON OCTOBER 4, AND THE ISRAELIS ARE PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS, ALTHOUGH THEY DO NOT EXPECT A FINAL AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED BEFORE NEXT SPRING. THE TIMING DEPENDS ON HOW THE EC'S NEGOTIATIONS GO WITH THE MAGHREB STATES AND SPAIN. ANOTHER UNCERTAINTY -- THE EC RESPONSE TO THE ISRAELI REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE -- MAY DEPEND ON

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WHETHER THE COMMUNITY DECIDES TO GIVE SUCH AID TO EGYPT AND SYRIA.

ISRAEL AND THE EC ARE TALKING ABOUT A PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENT. ISRAEL WILL BE GIVEN A LONGER TIME THAN THE EC TO REDUCE TARIFFS ON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS AND WILL NOT GRANT TARIFF PREFERENCES IN THE FARM SECTOR.

**SOUTH VIETNAM NEWSPAPERS PROTEST:** REUTER REPORTS THAT THE VIETNAMESE PRESS ASSOCIATION SAID TODAY ALL DAILY NEWSPAPERS WOULD SUSPEND PUBLICATION TOMORROW IN PROTEST AGAINST GOVERNMENT PRESS RESTRICTIONS. BUT PRO-GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPERS WERE NOT EXPECTED TO JOIN THE ONE-DAY HALT, WHICH FOLLOWS ANTIGOVERNMENT PROTESTS YESTERDAY, INCLUDING ONE BY BUDDHIST NUNS IN WHICH ONE OF THEIR LEADERS SAID FOUR NUNS WERE BEATEN BY POLICE AND HAD TO BE TREATED IN A HOSPITAL.

**MOSCOW JEWS CELEBRATE HOLIDAY WITHOUT INTERFERENCE:** FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS, SOVIET JEWS, CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAY OF SIMCHATH TORAH ON OCTOBER 8, WERE ALLOWED TO SING AND DANCE ON THE STREET IN FRONT OF MOSCOW'S MAIN SYNAGOGUE. THE AUTHORITIES' ENLIGHTENED HANDLING OF THE EVENT APPEARS TO BE PART OF AN EFFORT BY THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP TO POLISH UP ITS IMAGE IN THE WEST.

THE U.S. EMBASSY IN MOSCOW REPORTS THAT THE STREET IN FRONT OF THE SYNAGOGUE WAS BLOCKED OFF TO TRAFFIC TO ACCOMMODATE THE FESTIVITIES. MILITIAMEN ON THE SCENE MADE NO ATTEMPT TO DISPERSE WORSHIPERS AFTER THE SERVICES. A JEWISH ACTIVIST REPORTED THAT THE MILITIA HAD BEGUN TO SET UP THE NORMAL OPERATION TO KEEP THE STREETS CLEAR EARLY IN THE DAY, BUT HALTED THE PREPARATIONS ON ORDERS FROM THEIR "KGB BOSS" -- PRESUMABLY SOMEONE RELAYING A POLITICAL DECISION.

**NUCLEAR WEAPONS CONTROVERSY IN JAPAN:** SOME JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE REMARKED PRIVATELY THAT THE CURRENT CONTROVERSY OVER ALLEGATIONS THAT U.S. SHIPS VISITING JAPAN CARRY NUCLEAR WEAPONS WILL GREATLY INCREASE OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S NOVEMBER VISIT, EVEN IF THE ISSUE IS SOMEHOW RESOLVED BEFORE THEN. THEY EXPECT SOME LEFTIST GROUPS TO STAGE LARGE, PERHAPS VIOLENT, DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE TOKYO AREA. ACCORDING TO THESE OFFICIALS, THERE IS A GROWING FEELING IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT SHOULD BE TEMPORARILY POSTPONED USING THE EXCUSE OF THE ILLNESS OF THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE. THEY BELIEVE A TURBULENT VISIT WOULD DO MORE HARM TO BILATERAL RELATIONS THAN THE TEMPORARY EMBARRASSMENT OF POSTPONING THE VISIT.

ALTHOUGH THE MEDIA IS ALSO SPECULATING ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE CONTROVERSY AFFECTING THE VISIT, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE TANAKA GOVERNMENT IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING REQUESTING A POSTPONEMENT.

**WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS:** A STAR EDITORIAL ON THE "PROSPECTS OF PEACE" SAYS IT IS JUST AS WELL THAT THE PROGNOSIS FOR YOUR TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST REMAINS, AS THEY SAY, "GUARDED." EVEN EGYPT'S PRESIDENT SADAT, WHO ONCE HAILED YOU AS A GENIUS AND MIRACLE MAN, NOW SEEMS TO HAVE A MORE REALISTIC APPRAISAL OF THE

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POSSIBILITIES. AND SINCE GREAT EXPECTATIONS ARE SO OFTEN THE HARBINGER OF GREATER DISAPPOINTMENTS, THIS IS ALL TO THE GOOD. WITH THE ISRAELIS STANDING FIRM AND THE ARABS THREATENING A RENEWAL OF THE WAR AND ANOTHER OIL BOYCOTT UNLESS THEIR CONDITIONS ARE MET, THIS IS PERHAPS AS MUCH AS ANYONE CAN HOPE FOR. AT THIS POINT, EVEN THE SMALLEST MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE IS PREFERABLE TO A CONTINUED STALEMATE. YOUR PRESENCE IN THE AREA MAY AT LEAST HELP TO FORESTALL THE WORST, EVEN IF IT FAILS TO PRODUCE THE MIRACLE THAT TOO MANY OF US HAVE COME TO EXPECT. MARTHA ANGLE STATES THAT, IN A STRONG REBUFF TO P

ESIDENT FORD AND YOU, THE HOUSE TODAY IGNORED A VETO THREAT AND INSISTED UPON AN IMMEDIATE END TO ALL U.S. MILITARY AID TO TURKEY. BY A VOTE OF 197 TO 171, THE HOUSE REJECTED A SENATE-PASSED COMPROMISE PROPOSAL TO SUSPEND THE AID CUTOFF FOR 60 DAYS.

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